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Message from Minister Shirley Bond

Honourable Shirley Bond, Minister of Education

We know that learning is not and cannot be limited to September through June, or K–12. Learning is a year-round activity and a life-long passion.

To engage students in learning this summer, the Province funded bursaries helping deserving nine- to 12-year-olds build on their skills at Science Alliance camps. With practical lessons on forestry, fisheries, mining, robotics, engineering and chemistry, this year's camps are looking at the science behind life and work in the North. I believe that these bursaries will give northern students a hands-on experience that will inspire them now and always.

Likewise, the Province is contributing $85,000 to British Columbia's 2007 Kids Summer Reading Club and Teen Summer Reading Club to help young people improve their reading skills. Together, these free library programs accommodate children of all ages and programs are offered at over 65 libraries around the province. Library reading programs help foster a love of reading and prepare students for the next school year.

Have a wonderful summer and please help those you know enjoy a balanced summer that includes time outdoors, exercise and healthy foods, plus reading and other more informal learning activities.

B.C. Celebrates the Best in Trades

Earlier this month, the Province held a special ceremony to honour B.C. students who were ranked at the top of their trade at the 2007 Canadian Skills Competition. Twenty B.C. secondary and post-secondary students captured three gold medals, 11 silver medals and six bronze medals.

[Read more]

Education Minister Shirley Bond controls an award-winning robot built by Owen Remmen, Dylan Hutchinson and the Georges P. Vanier secondary robotics team.

HOT TOPIC

One in four B.C. children ages 2-17 is overweight or obese. And up to 60 per cent of youth do not exercise enough to foster optimal growth and development.

However, the seventh annual school satisfaction survey shows that B.C.'s Healthy Schools program is effectively helping students understand their health choices — an important first step in combating childhood obesity.

B.C.'s satisfaction survey is the largest of its kind in Canada. The survey is administered to students in grades 3/4, 7, 10 and 12, as well as to parents and school staff. Over 187,000 individuals participated this year.

More students in all grades surveyed responded that they are learning about how to stay healthy, with Grade 7 students showing the largest increase at six per cent. More Grade 12 students also reported that they get exercise at school - up four per cent from last year.

Other positive survey results show that staff satisfaction with student learning is up two per cent from 2006 and five per cent from 2003.

Less encouraging results include one per cent drops in Grade 7 and Grade 10 students' satisfaction with learning. Parents, educators and school districts will use this information to develop achievement contracts and school plans aimed at improving student achievement.

Read more about B.C.'s Healthy Schools program and the seventh annual school satisfaction survey, or see the complete survey results.

www.bced.gov.bc.ca